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# Friends Establish Scholarship for Varkis Baligian '62

**U**B Law School alumni have responded to the death of Varkis Baligian '62 with an outpouring of contributions to a scholarship fund being established in his memory.

Baligian died on Oct. 3, 1991, at the age of 67.

"He loved the Law School and thoroughly loved the practice of law, so what could be better than to assist somebody with their legal education?" said State Supreme Court Justice Jacqueline Koshian '59, Baligian's widow. Koshian said she decided to establish the scholarship after friends of her husband "kept calling me and saying, 'We want to do something.'"

The permanently endowed scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving student. Contributions are being accepted by Associate Dean Alan S. Carrel at the University at Buffalo School of Law, John Lord O'Brian Hall, Amherst, N.Y. 14260.

"He was a very likable guy and had a lot of friends," said Phillip Brothman '62, a classmate of Baligian's. "Obviously, we missed him greatly at our class' 30th reunion this year."

During the 1940s Baligian

worked in California for a number of years as a civilian attached to the military. Under the auspices of the Eastman Kodak Co., he processed highly classified films, utilizing the newest technology of that time.



*Varkis Baligian '62*

He entered UB Law School in his mid-30s, after graduating from Niagara University. Following law school, he practiced with his wife for nine years before serving as an assis-

tant public defender from 1972 to 1977. In 1978 he became the executive director of the Niagara County Legal Aid Society, and served in that position until 1986. "He always championed the cause of the underdog," Koshian said.

Following that, Baligian became the assistant county attorney for the Department of Social Services, a position he resigned in May 1991 because of ill health.

In addition to his legal practice and public service, Baligian also managed Koshian's four campaigns for judgeships. Only the first, for Niagara Family Court — "a learning experience for both of us," Koshian said — was unsuccessful. The winning campaigns included the 1986 race that put Koshian in her current position on the State Supreme Court.

"He always seemed to be able to make the right decisions," Koshian said. "We were a great team."

"It's difficult for a man to step aside and let the female go forward. He

could have run, very easily, and in all likelihood he would have won. But he let me do it.

"He was just a very, very bright, socially knowledgeable person." ■